



# The Green Albemarle

Volume 01, Number 1

Go Green • Save Money • Save the Planet

September 2018

## October Meeting

Monday, October 15  
11:30 A.M.

Witherspoon Library  
Elizabeth City, NC

### What is Green \$aves Green?

Green \$aves Green is a non-partisan, non-profit, all-volunteer local environmental action group.

We believe that the Albemarle Region is uniquely positioned to be the model "Green Region" of the state.

Our projects are designed to build community support for renewable energy, conservation, and environmental protection.

By working together to live more sustainably, we can save money, protect our natural resources, improve our quality of life, and build a stronger regional economy.

The Green \$aves Green group meets the 3rd Monday of each month at  
Elizabeth City's  
Witherspoon Memorial Library  
100 East Colonial Ave  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909  
at 11:30 A.M.  
**unless otherwise noted.**



# What's Next?

## Potential Projects for Green \$aves Green

by Nita Coleman

Our first-ever Green \$aves Green Expo on March 24, 2018 was so successful, we decided to keep going! The Green \$aves Green (G\$G) planning group brainstormed a list of possible next steps for G\$G group projects. After discussion, we agreed to begin with these three group projects:

- 1. Start a local Green Drinks chapter.** John Stolarczyk will lead this project.
- 2. Coordinated with the Sierra Club to host a local premiere of a new documentary: *Reinventing Power: America's Renewable Energy Boom*.** John Stolarczyk worked with the NC Sierra Club to organize this event.
- 3. Little River Keepers.** Water Quality testing in collaboration with Albemarle Research for Conservation and Development (ARC&D). Rodney Johnson will lead this effort.

In addition to these group projects, several G\$G members are working on individual projects. Stay tuned! 🌱



## Welcome to the Newsletter for Green \$aves Green

by Mary Ellen Hill, Editor

Hi, and welcome. This is the first edition of the *The Green Albemarle*, published for the members of G\$G and anyone with an interest in joining our movement for sustainable living and environmental education. Our interest are not political, but economical. We advocate for cleaner energy, lifestyles, and products in the interest of saving money and resources. We believe that, for the most part and in the long run, people save money when they consider the "green" factor in their decision making process.

New members are welcome. Please join us and bring your good ideas!

For more information, contact: [nitarosecoleman@gmail.com](mailto:nitarosecoleman@gmail.com) 🌱

# Partnership Formed to Monitor Water Quality in Albemarle Waters

*from ARC&D 2017-18 Annual Report*

The ARC&D began collaborating with the Albemarle Commission, Chowan-Edenton



Environmental Group (CEEG), Green \$aves Green Little River Keepers, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and local governments to monitor water quality in rivers and creeks in the region. Citizen scientists are collecting water samples from

key locations on the Chowan River, Potecasi Creek, Edenton Bay, and the Little River and sending them to a lab for analysis. Identifying nutrient hotspots and the sources of nutrients are key steps for developing an effective program to combat algal blooms.

This regional effort is funded by grants from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the US Fish and Wildlife Service—Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and the many volunteer citizen scientists who are donating their time. 🐾

## Little River Keepers Collect First Water Samples

*A Project of the Green \$aves Green Committee and Albemarle RC&D Council utilizing grant funds from Clean Water Management Trust Fund and US Fish and Wildlife Service*

*by Rodney Johnson*

On Tuesday, August 7, 2018, Nita Coleman, Brian Lannon and Rodney Johnson pulled water samples from seven sites along the Little River and sent them overnight to NCDA for nutrient and other chemical testing. They pulled three samples by vehicle at Sandy Road near the wind farm, the bridge on Five Bridges Road and the bridge on Foreman Bundy Road. The other four samples were pulled by pontoon boat at Hall's Creek, Nixonton Bay, Dances Bay and the mouth of Symonds Creek.

It was a beautiful day on the river after our two

week monsoon. Some of the items they checked at each site were: air and water temperature, pH, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, cloud cover % and any algae. Thank goodness they saw no algae blooms that day. They will continue to sample the river at the same exact spots at least monthly, and especially after an algae bloom and one rainfall event.

Our goal is to establish some baseline data to



compare to future samples. A similar Chowan group of volunteers is collecting samples also. The Chowan River is already showing algal blooms, from northern Chowan county to the Town of Edenton. The blooms can really affect the local economy by hurting tourism and recreational activities, and can sometimes cause fish kills and hurt commercial fishermen. 🐾



# Events

and Dates to Remember

**Monday, October 15 • 11:30 am–12:30 pm**

**Green Saves Green** meeting

Witherspoon Library, Elizabeth City

We will discuss our ongoing projects. The meeting will last one hour. All welcome. Please join us if you can and bring your ideas.

**Thursday, September 13 • 7 pm**

**Green Drinks** meeting at Cypress Grill

Water quality testing and algae blooms effecting rivers in the Albemarle area. Rodney Johnson, speaker.

**Saturday, September 15 • 11 am–4 pm**

**The Elizabeth River Project RiverFest 2018**

Chesapeake, VA

Nita, Sharon, and Mary Ellen plan to attend and check it out. Email us at [nitarosecoleman@gmail.com](mailto:nitarosecoleman@gmail.com) if you'd like to carpool. See the website below for more details.

<http://www.elizabethriverfest.org/>

## Green Community Resolution

by *Phil Donahue*

G\$G has introduced a resolution to be adopted by the Elizabeth City Council to promote support for environmental sustainability in our community. We will also be submitting a similar resolution to the Pasquotank County Commissioners. The resolutions will be acted on within the next couple of months. Lee Leidy was responsible for editing the resolution. Below is the text of the resolution:

### A Resolution Setting Forth an Environmental Sustainability Policy for the City of Elizabeth City

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to insuring the quality and safety of its natural and built environment and understands the importance of its responsibility to current residents and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth City will continuously improve environmental practices and strive to become a model of environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the city government in its culture and actions will reflect its commitment to environmental sustainability and will meet or exceed the environmental standards set by all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that through its operations, programs and services the city will:

#### **Natural Environment:**

Enhance the quality of the air, water, land and other natural resources by minimizing human impacts through conservation, restoration, recycling, reduction of pollution, reuse of materials, increase energy efficiency, and preservation of land.

#### **Built Environment:**

Support land use and transportation planning and practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Strive to be energy efficient by maintaining and operating existing municipal buildings and build new municipal buildings to LEED environmental standards.

Provide an efficient road network for vehicular traffic and alternative modes of transportation including mass transit and biking facilities. Continue to improve the walkability of the city and incorporate low emitting fuel efficient vehicles to the city's vehicle fleet.

#### **Education:**

Promote sustainable practices of city employees. Educate employees on the use and value of green building practices. Challenge employees to be more cognizant of energy efficiency and conservation in their workplace and at home. Partner with public and private organizations in the city to implement policies that promote the principles of environmental sustainability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Elizabeth City commits to providing staff, and technical resources to carry out this policy.



# 1st Green Drinks Meeting in Elizabeth City

by John Stolarczyk

**Elizabeth City Green Drinks** will begin its first Elizabeth City meeting on September 13th at Cypress Creek Grill on 113 S. Water Street at 7 pm. The group will meet on the second Thursday of each month. The speaker for September is **Rodney Johnson** who will discuss water quality testing and algae blooms that are affecting rivers in the Albemarle area.

**Brian Lannon**, Camden County conservationist, is slated for our October meeting. He will discuss soil organisms and their importance for a healthy ecosystem. Speaker presentations will be 15 to 30 minutes long, with time for discussion afterwards. Attendees can order drinks and/or dinner before or after the event. *All welcome.* 🍷

## The Sierra Club Weighs In

by David Ames

Chair, the Cypress Group, NC Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Greenville, NC

Congratulations to all who have made this possible. The Sierra Club will continue to work with you and support your initiatives.

For this first edition I want to say something about Sierra Club priorities. A partial list of our current concerns include: Pollution of the Cape Fear river by Gen X., disposal of coal ash from power plants, disposal of waste from hog farms, off-shore drilling for oil and gas, opposition to the new Atlantic Coast gas pipelines from West Virginia.

The list goes on, but the number one priority is the transition of energy production from fossil fuel to clean renewable sources, i.e. solar and wind energy. To stop ongoing global warming and sea level rise, so important particularly for the coastal area, the Sierra goal is 100% net carbon neutrality by 2050.

Progress is being made. The most recent issue of "EOS: Earth and Space Science News" reported: "Renewable energy and energy efficiency are rapidly gaining ground in the United States... America produced 4.6 times more wind energy in 2017 than in 2008, with wind producing 6.9% of the country's electricity compared with 1.5% in 2008. Energy efficiency increased, with the country using 1.1% less energy in 2017 than in 2008 despite adding 20 million people to

the population. And utility-scale battery energy storage capacity grew 17-fold between 2008 and 2017". To continue that progress, the report calls for policy makers and community leaders to set goals to more rapidly meet all energy needs in all sectors with renewable energy, to work to ensure the rapid deployment of renewable energy, to support the development of relevant emerging technologies, and to set limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

You also have started to work on these objectives; first with the Elizabeth City Council, but hopefully, next with other municipalities, counties and state government. Together, this advocacy can protect the planet. 🍷

# Reimagining Smart Mobility

by Phil Donahue

As Phil reported at our last meeting, **Lime Bikes** could not work with our community in a bike sharing program due to our demographics. However, he have found several smaller companies that may be able to work with us. The companies are **I-Bikes, Collective Bikes and Bike League**. He will begin contacting some of these companies to see if we can get a bike-sharing program going in our community. 🍷

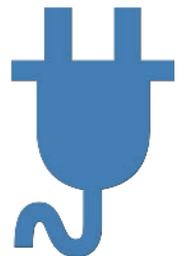


## Good News About Electric Charging Stations

by Phil Donahue

Last week Phil Donahue had a conversation with City Manager, Rich Olsen and his assistant Angela Cole concerning grant money available through their electric provider. We would be eligible for 5 grants of \$5,000 each for installation of car chargers in Elizabeth City.

The following locations are being targeted: Albemarle Hospital, Museum of the Albemarle, ECSU, COA and a Waterfront Park location. Each entity would be responsible for appropriating \$5000 to be coupled with the \$5,000 from Electricities. All installation and internet connections would be paid for by the city. Phil will update this project at our next meeting. 🍷



## The Green Spot



Sharing the Green

### What To Do With Old Clothes

The average U.S. citizen throws away a staggering 68 pounds of clothing and other textiles annually, adding up to around 11 million tons. Only about 15 percent of this mass gets recycled, which seems like a colossal—and disgraceful—waste.

While it is true that recycling centers in some states no longer take fabrics, you can still donate used clothing and textiles to outlets such as Goodwill and Salvation Army. Even better, in our area, **Hopeline's Clothesline Thrift Shop** collects the textiles, sorts them to find what is still wearable, and makes use of unwearable items by cutting them into wiping cloths or grinding them into fiber to manufacture stuffing, insulation, and carpet underlayment.

**Hopeline** is located at 923 Halstead Blvd, Elizabeth City, NC 27909, (252) 338-3107, open 10 am–5 pm Monday through Saturday. <http://www.albemarlehopeline.org>

*Albemarle Hopeline as a private, non-profit organization that provides comprehensive, direct, and preventive services to victims of family violence, sexual assault, and teen dating violence in the counties of Pasquotank, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Perquimans, and Gates.*

Want what you have;

do what you can; be who you are.

~ Forrest Church

Next newsletter deadline: **Monday, October 8**  
Please submit any pertinent articles you want to write, or have permission to publish, to:  
Newsletter Editor, [editorgsg@gmail.com](mailto:editorgsg@gmail.com)

## Volunteers in Action

Thank you **John Stolarczyk** for agreeing to be the administrator for our G\$G Facebook Page. Thank you **Mary Ellen Hill** for creating our logo, and to **Jim Sakolosky** for copyrighting it. Thank you to the **NC Sierra Club** and to **all G\$G volunteers** who helped organize and host the *Reinventing Power* film showing. 🐼

### Reinventing Power *America's Renewable Energy Boom* Local Film Screening

*by John Stolarczyk*

On Thursday, June 28 nearly one hundred visitors attended the screening of a new Sierra Club film that highlights renewable energy and the economy of Northeastern North Carolina. The Amazon Wind farm and two local farmers, Steve Harris and Horace Pritchard, were featured in this film. The film is part of a national campaign by the Sierra Club and runs about an hour. Many small and large communities from across the US show how the concerns of new energy sources and green technologies have been outweighed by positive impacts on these regions.

There were about 12 areas across the US featured and the stories behind everyday people working Renewable Energy sources. The final region featured is the story behind the first large scale Wind farm in North Carolina. This farm stretches across Pasquotank and Perquimans county and is has been in operation for over 2 years now. The quality of visual and audio in this movie showed how amazing and beautiful the rural farm land and wind turbines co-exist.

Following the screening Steve Harris and Horace Pritchard joined local commissioner Cecil Perry and Southeast Wind Coalition representative Adam Forer for a panel discussion. Green Saves Green members were instrumental in the planning and volunteered for many duties on the day of the event. Bobby Plough provided music during the reception, Tim and Michelle Aydlett, Sharon Burtner, and John Stolarczyk all managed different roles leading to a smooth event. Phil Donohue led the panel discussion and gave welcoming remarks. The event provided a great new view of the wind and solar resources in our region.

The film will be posted on the Sierra Club website in August and will be viewable for free by the public. 🐼

# Scenes from the 1st Green \$aves Green Expo 2018



Photo by Mike Cox



Photo by Tom Brennan



Photo by Tom Brennan



Photo by Mike Cox

